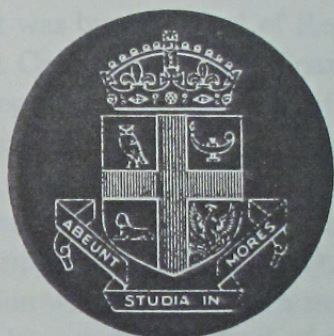


A HISTORY OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY



BY

C. B. SISSONS

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and firmness displayed by Burwash, the Faculty, and the Board in dealing with the Jackson controversy, and more especially to the strong blow that was struck for academic freedom in the realm of theology at the General Conference of 1910.

In March, 1910, Robert Beare died. He was given a funeral by the College befitting his thirty-nine years of faithful service and his unique place in the life of the College. And in the Library building, over the entrance to the stacks, the beautiful clock, its face designed by the distinguished architects of the building, so long as it tells the hours for successive generations of students will stand as a permanent memorial. It bears the legend: "*In memoriam Roberti ex dono xv virum viriditati delendae annis MCMXI-XII.*"²⁸

The new Library was completed in September, 1910. It had been built through the joint liberality of Andrew Carnegie and of Cyrus A. Birge of Hamilton, with a long list of others of lesser means assisting. In architecture it broke new ground at the University, and set the pattern for several later buildings on the campus. The material chosen was grey Credit Valley stone and the style collegiate Gothic. Its interior arrangement and fittings were the product of careful planning by the Senate and oversight by the librarian, Professor A. E. Lang. The transfer from the crowded quarters of the main building was a great event in the history of Victoria. There, under the somewhat casual direction of R. H. Johnston, and later under Professor McLaughlin with Miss Rose Barker as assistant, the needs of students and staff could be met only imperfectly. In the new building every necessary facility was provided. The students had three spacious reading rooms, the faculty suitable quarters in what became the George Locke room, and there were several small rooms assigned to research. Miss Barker was reported to have known the place of every book even in the new stacks, and was jealous of sharing her knowledge even with the card catalogue. The duties of cataloguing for some years were in the hands of Miss Marjorie L. C. Pickthall, whose too short association with the College is gratefully remembered. Indifferent health took her back to England during the First World War, and when she returned to Canada it was to the Pacific Coast.

²⁸I.e., these two "Bob" committees had contributed, or surrendered, the usual souvenirs (such as canes) for the purpose.

Meanwhile trouble was brewing in the management of the Women's Residence. The difficulty was partly constitutional, partly personal. The Barbara Heck Memorial Association had been continued as the Women's Residence and Educational Association. This body had contributed \$5,000 towards the purchase of the ground on which Annesley Hall was to stand. It had also assumed financial responsibilities in connection with the furnishing of the Hall itself and, after the securing of the Drynan property in 1905, with the renovation of this building, which was known commonly as "the annex" and officially as South Hall. The Association itself under the presidency of Mrs. Burwash was directed by a Committee of Management consisting of eighteen, several of whom in themselves or through their husbands represented considerable wealth. The members were self-nominated, six retiring each year, but their appointment was by the Board of Regents. Furthermore, the constitution given the Committee by the Board had expressly stated, "in all matters relating to the government of the students, the final appeal and decision shall remain with the Chancellor and Senate of the University."²⁹

One other body was involved. In 1906, in response to a general demand among students for self-government, the Annesley Student Government Association was formed with a small executive committee whose chairman was known as the Head of the House. The student association in conjunction with Dean Addison elaborated the following rules of conduct:

1. After dinner no student may leave the Hall without the permission of the Dean, and those who ask leave of absence must give in writing the address of the place to which they wish to go, and must report themselves to the Dean, and in her absence to the Director of the Household, on their return, not later than 10.30 o'clock.
2. Students of the first and second years may not accept invitations to social entertainments which will keep them out later than 10.30 o'clock, except those given in connection with their own College or on Friday evening, when they may not be out later than 12.30 o'clock.
3. Students of the third and fourth years may be permitted to go out on other evenings than Friday, and, if in groups of three or more, may have the use of a latch key.
4. Students in Annesley Hall may not attend public evening entertainments other than those of their own college, unless accompanied by a

²⁹*Documents for the Use of the Commission on Annesley Hall* (1912), p. 5.

chaperone approved by the Dean or by an escort formally approved by their parents or guardians.

5. Students may receive gentlemen callers only on Friday evenings from 7 to 10, and on Sundays after church until 10 o'clock. In case of out-of-town friends, exception will be made by permission of the Dean.

6. First and second year students may not go to evening church with gentlemen except members of their immediate family, and no student may go out walking or driving in the evening with gentlemen.³⁰

Such were the official bodies concerned and such the rules. The personal factor centred about Mrs. Ema (this was her spelling) Scott-Raff. She had come to Toronto from Owen Sound, with talents which won for her the patronage of Mrs. Timothy Eaton and an appointment to the headship of the Margaret Eaton School of Expression on North Street (later included in Bay Street) near Bloor. Then in 1900 she had replaced a Mrs. Cutter, after a year's very satisfactory service by that lady, as instructor in physical training for the young women of Victoria. A move made to extend this work was met by a decision of the Board of Regents on May 22, 1903, to the effect "that the Board place on record its opinion that no further study than Physical Culture be authorized in connection with the Women's Residence."³¹ However, two years later, Miss Addison was shocked (as her diary reveals) to find that Mrs. Scott-Raff had been assigned by the Committee of Management definite duties in Annesley Hall with a small stipend. And as time went on it was evident that Mrs. Scott-Raff's particular contribution, which many regarded as superficial, had made a strong appeal to Mrs. Burwash and to the Chancellor. The proceedings of the Board of the date of 1910 bear the following minute: "The sixth recommendation of the Chancellor read as follows: That to give more time in individual work in Elocution \$1500 be set apart for that department and arrangements if possible made with the Margaret Eaton School. Moved and seconded that recommendation No. 6 be referred to the Faculty Committee for report." It thus became apparent that the Chancellor's thought had been to give Mrs. Scott-Raff a larger place in the College, either in Annesley Hall or in teaching theological students how to preach, while the Board and the Senate had no desire to do either one or the other.

The trouble came to a head in January of 1911. On the 30th the

³⁰*Ibid.*, p. 9.

³¹*Ibid.*, p. 26.

Chancellor wrote Miss Addison of his dissatisfaction with the discipline of Annesley Hall, and his intention to lay the matter before the Senate three days later. This was his charge:

I am told that many students have the habit of sitting up and visiting in their rooms until 12 o'clock at night, that students are allowed the privilege of going out on visits every night in the week, and that students have gone to dances without a chaperone and to dances probably the character and conduct of which we know nothing, and have come in as late as 2 o'clock in the morning. These are matters which, if mooted abroad, would destroy the value of our residence for young women in the eyes of our Methodist people, and, apart altogether from public opinion, they are things which should not be allowed in a well regulated college.

For more than a year the situation was under review. A committee of the Senate, consisting of Reynar, Robertson, and Edgar, gave careful study to the rules and their enforcement. In the end it appeared that student government had commended itself not only to the undergraduates and to Miss Addison but to a majority of the Committee of Management, who forwarded to the Senate an expression of "renewed confidence in Miss Addison and in the general working of student government."³² The Alumnae Association also forwarded to the Senate "its unanimous approval of the principle of Student Government."³³ The fact emerged that in the sixteen weeks of the fall term six students had attended dances, four of these being students in science courses, who by reason of their laboratory work were cut off from any of the student activities available to those taking literary courses.

A new draft of rules, only slightly modified from those above quoted, was drawn up by the committee and presented to the Senate. A motion was made that the Chancellor be authorized to sign this agreement. An amendment that the rules regarding dancing, theatres, and chaperonage be referred back to the committee for careful reconsideration was moved by Dr. Bell and seconded by the Chancellor, who had left the chair for the discussion. The amendment was lost, and the motion carried, together with a subsequent motion of confidence in Miss Addison and the suggestion that all officers of the Hall should be under her direction. An appeal by a minority of the Committee of Management, which included its chairman, for a stiffening of the rules was made to the Board. On April 30, 1912, on motion of J. R. L. Starr and N. W.

³²*Ibid.*, p. 18.

³³*Ibid.*, p. 19.

Rowell the Board referred the whole question to a committee of seven of its own members, who together with the Senate's committee and a group of seven members of the Women's Committee were to form a joint commission to report to the Board.

Later in the same meeting a motion by the Rev. Dr. Rose and Dr. Reeve "that the Chancellor's request for a year's rest be granted with salary" was carried. Arrangements were made that he should accept an invitation to tour the Methodist missions of Japan, after a visit with relatives in the Canadian West. From Calgary, he forwarded his resignation as President and Chancellor. Both the Chancellor and Mrs. Burwash were unwilling to sign the agreement with the women students approved by the Senate, and the required signatures had to await the appointment of their successors. Thus ended a great presidency. The manner of its ending invites the reflection as to how much better it would have been had the resignation attended his victory for freedom of thought in 1910 rather than his defeat on the lesser issue of freedom of manners two years later. The question is also raised, when it is noted that in 1912 Burwash was in his seventy-third year, whether the time does not come in the area of university administration, perhaps rather earlier than in that of teaching, when even the firmest powers are likely to falter under the weight of multifarious and perplexing detail.

XI. THE DIVIDE

1913

It is well to pause at the year 1913 for a closer examination of the state of the realm. In many respects that year was a landmark in the history of Victoria. It witnessed the end of the Burwash régime of twenty-seven years, and the entry of a new president and several new professors. During these years Victoria had gone far towards attaining its ideal. Financial stability had been achieved. The student body was of such numbers as to form a polity where "the good life" might be realized. Arts and Theology worked comfortably together in a just relation to church and state. In the University, as in the country, our place had been firmly established. Principal Hutton's words at the great luncheon given to Dr. Burwash in the new hall which bears his name were not the idle compliments which so often mar such occasions:

Dr. Burwash proposed and has continued to work our confederation in a spirit of friendship, justice and Christianity; and Christianity after all, I apprehend, is the only asset in the political future of the universities or the world—and therefore it is that our system which might have broken down in a dozen places, which might have exploded into sky rockets of agitation and newspaper controversy, with crises in the University once a week and crises in the evening papers every evening, has, on the contrary, worked smoothly and softly and tamely, with nothing in it for the journalists and the scaremongers and the mischief-makers; so that to-day we most of us never recognize our blessings fully and shall never know except in a vague, unconscious way, how much we owe to the honesty and generosity and statesmanship—and these things are statesmanship in their results if not in their precise motives—the statesmanship, generosity and honesty of the first President of Victoria College under confederation, Dr. Burwash, our "Nathanael without guile."¹

A university president, like a premier, is to be judged largely by the type of men he contrives to have about him. By this criterion also,

¹*University Monthly*, Nov., 1913, p. 19.



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Tues. Nov. [24th].

Instead of going to gym got up and did Aristophanes for which I was glad because Mr. Rumball and I were the only ones in class and we had [it] in Prof. Langford's room. Asked him about changing my pass subjects and we had the sweetest talk. He said Miss Gibson's translations and mine were very good. Then Prof. Robertson said so and he is just sweet anyway. Accordingly did not go to Psychology but worked all afternoon. There was a class meeting which I forgot to attend and they had a hot time discussing having a scrap. Mr. Stapleford²⁰ spoke for it and Elsa, Mr. Moorhouse and Mr. Beaton were against it. Elsa felt quite wrathful. Changed tables and I am sitting at Mrs. Sheffield's beside Winona Cruise²¹ and we were extolling Prof. Langford together. The bunch went to Calvé and we started off in pouring rain to debate. McMaster came around by Annesley Hall in a body. Our men debated splendidly but McMaster got it by oratory. Mr. Moyer was nervous but Mr. Brownlee hurled the thunder bolts of Zeus at them. Dr. Hincks was chairman. Helen and I were discussing how naturally Elizabeth spoke of Mr. Moyer but decided that she liked him pretty well.

Wed. Nov. [25th].

Went to Dr. Reynar's lecture for a change and Muriel and I asked him about taking our debate in place of an essay and he said he would. After lunch lay down and slept a couple of hours. Wrote a letter to Mae and Edith. Went to open Lit which was very nice²². Canadian night and they gave Cana-

20: Frank Neil Stapleford ('12): "Frank spent seven successful years in business [and] entered University in 1907. After two years he 'hit the trail' for Vancouver, where a flourishing Methodist Church sprang up under his leadership... His hobby is social service." He will have returned from Vancouver a year behind in his studies.

21: Margaret Winnona Ethel Cruise ('12): "After teaching for a while registered at Victoria...in the Household Science Course, in which she has been very successful. Although not prominent on executives, Winnona has taken a hearty interest in all college activities... Good common sense, kind heart and jovial disposition."

22: "The meetings of the Women's Literary Society are always bright and interesting, but the open meeting held on Wednesday evening, November 25th, quite excelled any previous ones, yet was truly a typical meeting. The business of the evening was handled expeditiously, and considerable amusement was aroused by the discussion on a motion that the freshmen, on being provided with whisks, should every morning make it their duty to brush the dust from the caps and gowns of the girls of the upper years.

"The programme had a distinctly Canadian flavor, and opened with a paper by Miss Lena Hill, '09, 'A General Survey of Canadian Literature.' Papers were also read by Miss Helen Daeoe, '11, on Henry Drummond, and Miss Ruby Hewitt, '11, on Robert Service, and a very sympathetic reading was given by Miss Mabel Jamieson, '10, of 'Every Man for Himself,' by Duncan. The musical part of the programme consisted of a piano solo by Miss F. Spencer; vocal solo by Miss E. Stenton, '12, and the rendering of 'Canada' by an octette of young ladies.

"Mrs. Raff delighted her hearers by her reading from several Canadian poets, giving, among others, selections from Miss Coleman and Mrs. Blewett. A scene from 'She Stoops to conquer,' acted by several of the College girls, was especially appreciated." (*Acta Victoriana*, XXXI(1908-09), pp.298-99.)

A note on the performing students and Mrs. Raff:

a) Lena Beryl Hill ('09), from Jarvis Collegiate, now a senior at 18, "the youngest student of her year...she has the enviable record of having missed only two

dian selections. Willa and Marguerite were in eating apples and cakes.

Thurs. Nov. 26th

Went to gym. Worried through Horace and Tacitus whose 20 chapters I did not have done. Got a dandy letter from Harold and after my graceful exit from sight with Madeline Jenner wrote one back to him and also to Mr. Margeson. After lunch Helen and I played tennis but the wind nearly blew us away. At four we went to the bazaar in Central Church²³. The dean was there radiantly happy and treated us to some of her candy. Helen bought a bag for Norma and I got several little things for Christmas presents. I feel real happy again and am going to let studies go. Was talking at dinner about things to get for people. Clara Pennington and I had a fierce love scene in the Common Room. I am trying to think who all I would like to give presents to. Carrie Dunnett shall sure get a dandy.

Fri. Nov. 27th

Studied and then went to Livy. Did my history composition in the Univ. Library. Got a letter from Genevieve who is having a good time. Studied and helped decorate during afternoon. Put on white dress for dinner²⁴. The posters were very pretty and I would have liked the Indian girl but it got gone before

receptions in her whole course." b) Mabel Claire Jameison ('10), from Hamilton and in Philosophy: "Unfailing energy and unlimited capability." c) Edna Grace Stenton ('13): "Her sweet voice has made her popular in social gatherings... Her interest in athletics is shown by her 'ever-presence' on the rink." d) "Mrs. Ema (this was her spelling) Scott-Raff. She had come to Toronto from Owen Sound, with talents which won for her the patronage of Mrs. Timothy Eaton and an appointment to the headship of the Margaret Eaton School of Expression... Then in 1900 she replaced a Mrs. Cutter...as instructor in physical training for the young women of Victoria... As time went on it was evident that Mrs. Scott-Raff's particular contribution, which many regarded as superficial, had made a strong appeal to Mrs. Burwash and to the Chancellor... The proceedings of the Board of the date of 1910 bear the following minute: That to give more time in individual work in Elocution \$1500 be set apart for that department and arrangements if possible made with the Margaret Eaton School"... It thus became apparent that the Chancellor's thought had been to give Mrs. Scott-Raff a larger place in the College, either in Annesley Hall or in teaching theological students how to preach, while the Board and the Senate had no desire to do either one or the other.

"The trouble came to a head in January of 1911" (Sissons, p.242.) — i.e., one month after the close of K.C.'s diary.

23: A bazaar before a bazaar: their own was to be held on the following day!

24: "On the evening of Friday, Nov. 27th, Annesley Hall resounded with the buzz of merry voices. The bazaar which the girls of Victoria College gave was a huge success socially and financially. The home-made candy, pennants, cushions, and posters were soon eagerly bought up, the latter showing particularly the artistic ability of the artists.

"The 'ice-cream' nooks, superintended by girls adorned with white dresses and smiles, were also very popular. One amusing feature of the evening was the auctioning of the 'left-overs,' which went like hot-cakes, and occasioned much mirth and wit.

"The evening was pleasantly concluded by a short programme. The solos of Miss Philips, '09, and Miss Joy Denton were especially appreciated. On the whole, the evening was declared a success, and not a few were heard to say that the bazaar was quite as much fun as a college reception." (*Acta Victoriana*, XXXI(1908-09), p.296.)

Wed. Nov. 9th.

Went to De Fin and that was all. Had early lunch and went down street only to find he wouldn't take me over again. Came up in rain and hunted quotations. Edith is not struck on her proofs⁵. Went over to Miss B. who did not come home for dinner. Looked at quotation and studied some.

Thurs. Nov. [10th]⁶.

Wrote a note to Reda. Saw Miss Herington and young French gave me two dollars⁷. Went down to Lyonde's again and around up street with Mary who looked as sweet as a picture. Helen went over to Mrs. Kilgour⁸ after her hat and got two pretty ones. Dressed for dinner and Mrs. Eaton &c were here. After some hesitation seeing young French I went out to the debate⁹. It was fine. They sang dandy college songs and

5: They have been having their graduation-pictures taken.

6: This and the next two days are dated erroneously "15th", "16th" and "17th."

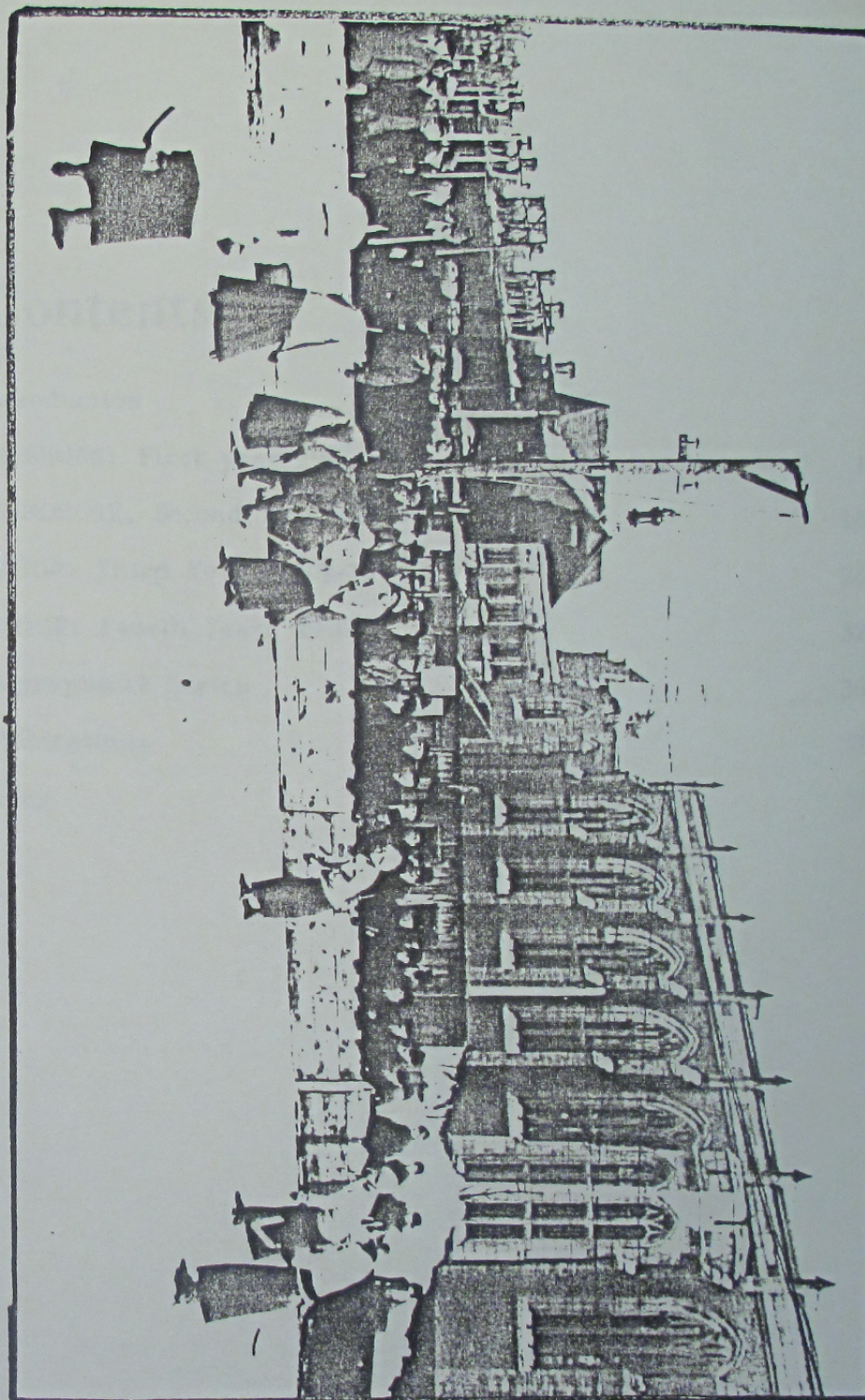
7: A younger brother of the French of '10?

8: Mrs. Frances Kilgour, of 666 Euclid Avenue, a noted Toronto milliner of the time, here at the peak of her career. (K.C. is spelling by ear again.) Mrs. Kilgour's son, the Rev. Hugh Bryans Kilgour, was then a McMaster undergraduate attending classes on Bloor Street in the next block from Annesley Hall, and thus may perhaps figure as one of the anonymous "McMaster men" who cross the diary on rare occasions. His daughter, M.L. Knight, is one of the partners of *Childe Thursday* and thus became the one to discover (with some shock) that the name was the present "Kilgour", then still with its Scots pronunciation (which none of the present family appear to use). "It's my grandmother!" she cried — and the small-world Toronto of 1907-10 echoed its intimacy into the 1980s.

9: "On Thursday night, November 10, a bevy of loyal Victoria students gathered at the College to escort our debaters, R.M. Edmanson ('12) and W.W. Evans ('12) to Trinity Convocation Hall. So hilarious were the supporters over what they were sure would be certain victory that Toronto's police force deemed it necessary to accompany the throng. With sighs of relief they witnessed their departure at Trinity gates as they heralded their approach with tooting of horns and lusty shouts. After a fitting welcome the audience was favored with an instrumental solo excellently rendered by J.D. Ketchum of Trinity College. The Victoria men had prepared several songs, prophetic in their vein, which were much appreciated. By 9 o'clock the judges had arrived, and then began the debate on the subject, 'That Canada should adopt an amendment to the constitution requiring an educational qualification for suffrage.' So forcible was the clear and eloquent style of W. Burt, leader of the affirmative, that some did not know just what might prove the issue. However, fears for Victoria were set aside as T.M. Edmanson, leader of the negative, sped through his logical arguments. These proved so convincing that V.C. Spencer, B.A., of Trinity spent two-thirds of his allotted time attempting to refute his statements, and thus leaving himself but little time to bring forward any new points. W.W. Evans dismissed these in a few words and then proceeded to bring forward one irrefutable argument after another. The leader of the affirmative then spoke for five minutes, after which the judges withdrew. During the interval Mr. Dichtburn [sic] of Trinity College sang two songs. Then followed retaliatory songs, and since both were theological colleges many an 'amen' was chanted. The songs were kept up, sometimes two at a time, much to the chairman's discomfort, until the judges returned. They declared that their lengthy absence was not due to the refreshments or the Provost's tobacco, but to the usual difficulty of coming to a decision. They stated the weight of argument lay with the negative, and hence awarded the decision to Victoria." (*Acta Victoriana*, XXXIV (1910-11), pp.189-91, the account written by Hazel Farley, since W.W. Evans, the other "Locals" editor, was one of the stars of the debate.) Trinity College, of course, was still far out on Queen Street West.

Roy Manning Edmanson ('12): "Besides standing high in the Political Science course, he has been president of the 'Bob,' president of 'Lit.,' a member of our

Women's Hockey (Burwash Hall under Construction) (from the James Collection).





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